FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: NAT KING COLE

Office Memorandum • United States Government

: DIRECTOR, FBL

DATE: 4/20/51

SAC, LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: NAT KING COLE

SECURITY MATTER - C

On March 27, 1951 of Los Angeles, was interviewed by SAS recalled NAT KING COLE during which as an old friend and contact of CP member said that he had recently seen KING COLE and talked with feels positive COLE would be him briefly; that he, amenable to discussing his CP membership and activities with recalled that sometime in the early 1940's a Bureau agent. (phonetic) brought COLE to and one and talked with him regarding receiving instruction in the subject of Marxism. It was decided, however, ITOM should not be the one to give COLE such instruction that is colored. NAT KING COLE himself is also colored, he was at that time, and still is, although according to associating almost exclusively with white "progressives".

For the Bureau's information, NAT KING COLE is the well known Negro musician who lives in Los Angeles and/who recently received considerable mention in the press due to income tax difficulties with the Internal Revenue Department, which seized COLE's home for payment of back taxes due the Government. It has been since reported in the press, however, that COLE has recovered his property by making some sort of an arrangement for the payment of these taxes.

From information furnished this office in 1945 it appears that COLE members of the Communist Party and the Communist Political Association during that period, probably attached to the cultural groups in Hollywood. Our files indicate, however, that COLE was on tour a considerable part of the time and no particular Communist activity on his part has been reported.

It is possible that COLE may have dropped out of the CP movement since that period and, as indicated by above, might be willing to discuss his past affiliation with representatives of this Bureau. If so, he might be able to

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furnish pertinent information, depending upon the length of the period of his affiliation and the degree of activity on his part.

It is suggested that the Bureau might deem it desirable to arrange such an interview with COLE. However, no such step is being taken unless the Bureau authorizes it.

SERVICE UNIT SEARCH SLIP SEARCH SLIP Supervisor Room 1262 Exact Spelling Exact Spelling Searchers Searchers All References All References Initial Subversive Ref. Losubversive Ref. Date_ 4-30 Main File Main File Restricted to Locality of Restricted to Locality of FILE NUMBER FILE NUMBER **SERIALS SERIALS**

SAC, Los Angeles

May 21, 1951

Director, FBI

NAT KING COLE
SECURITY MATTER - C
Your file 100-29226
RECORDED - 57 Bureau file 100-379380 ___

01-19/1 #3

Reurlet dated April 20, 1951.

Before further consideration will be given to allow-backing your Office to contact Cole, the Bureau would like to have the benefit of your reasons why believed that Cole backwould be receptive to an interview by this Bureau. If you do not have this information available, you should recontact for such and thereafter advise the Bureau.

For your information, Bureau files reflect several references to Cole's activities in the Communist Party; however, all of these references have been furnished to the Bureau by your Office.

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Office	\boldsymbol{N}	1emorandum • United States Government
TO : FROM : SUBJECT:	SAC	My Curello (Your file 10/1/5) ector, FBI loo -379380 thus lole SM-C Ill
	()	The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not received a report. You are instructed to immediately submit a report. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau. Report submitted Report will be submitted Reason for delay According to the Bureau for the Burea
	(;) (:)	Advise Bureau when report may be expected 97 SP3B15/Ru
(Place rou	r re	Surep immediately. Div on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial is the registrate and acknowledgment of this communication.)

Office Memorandum • United States Government

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-379380)

DATE: October 13, 1951

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SAC. LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT:

NAT KING COLE

SECURITY MATTER - C

Rebulet dated May 21, 1951.

former Negro CP member some years ago and the original informant in this matter, has been reinterviewed b7 in detail concerning his knowledge of NAT KING COLE, and why he feels that COLE might be receptive to an interview by an agent of the Bureau.

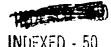
furnished the same information regarding his relationship with CCLE as set out in mylet of April 20 last, and he could furnish no reason whatever, other than his guess or opinion, that COLE might willingly furnish any information to the Bureau. As a matter of fact, and admitted that he had not even seen or been in contact with CCLE for several years since himself quit the CP.

As I indicated in mylet of April 20 last, NAT KING CCLE appears to have been a member of the CP in Los Angeles in 1945, but our files fail to indicate that he was particularly active therein.

Unless additional information is received from other available sources, therefore, to indicate that COLE would be receptive to an interview and could furnish information of value, no attempt to contact him is being made UACB.

- CLOSED -

MMB:msb 100-29226



EX-18

OCT 25 195



MAILED

FEB 13 1955

NAME CHECK

February 16, 1955

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE known as Mat King Cole Born: March 17, 1919 Montgomery, Alabama

NaThRロ、こし

No investigation pertinent to your inquiry has been conducted by the FBI concerning the captioned indi-However, the files of this Bureau reflect the vidual. following information which may relate to the subject of your name check request.

A confidential informant of known reliability advised in 1945 that Mat Cole, who may be identical with the subject of your inquiry,

members of the Communist Political Association in Hollywood at that time.

(100-356137-589pg10; A confidential informant of known reliability advised in August, 1949, that "King" Cole was a member of the Music Division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (Hollywood Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council).

BRitlens 566372599 or 8th8) Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited as a Communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, Review of the Scientific and Cultural Conference for World Peace arranged by the Mational Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions and held in New York City on March 25, 26, and 27, 1949, House Report No. 1954, April 26, 1950.

The Communist Political Association has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Talson Beardman Nichols Belmont Harbo Mohr

> Parsons Rosen

Sizoo Winterrowd Tele. Room Holloma p

Orig. to State Req. rec'd: 2-1-55 (4)

INDEXED - 28

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The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is for your use and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency.



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MAlberral adain Shimma. 7

wathaniel adam cole also known as: Hat King Cole Born: March 17, 1919 Apatgomery, Alabama

No investigation pertinent to your inquiry bas been conducted by the FBI concerning the captioned individual. However, the files of this Bureau reflect the following information which may relate to the subject of your name shock request.

A confidential informent who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1945 that Mat Cole who may be identical with the subject of your inquiry, and

that time, were then members of the Compunist Political Association in Hollywood. (100-356137-589) pg. 10 source

confidential informent who has furnished reliable information in the past edvised in August, 1949, that "King" Cole was a member of the Music Division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (Hollywood Arts, Seiences, and Professions Commail). (100-356137-589- source -

The Maticual Council of the Arts, Sciences, at Professions has been cited as a communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, Review of the Scientific and Culture Conference for World Pence erranged by the Mational Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions and held in New York City on March 25, 26, and 27, 1949, House Report No. 1954, April 26, 1950.

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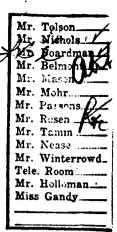


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The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file sheek and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated entaids of your agency.

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King Cole.	
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Justice In The Cole Case

Donviction of four men in Recorder's Court on charges growing out of the ettack last week on singer Nat (King) Cole in Municipal Auditorium should give the world notice that Birmingham does not tolerate that kind of despicable business.

Each of the four men was sentenced to 10 days in fail and fines also were

vidence developed by police indicates

that a large scale attack on the Negro singer was planned but that the majority of those involved apparently backed out, leaving only a small group to make the attempt.

Members of the Police Department especially are to be praised for their work in breaking up this attack and in helping to bring the men accused o justice,



BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD Birmingham, Alabama April 19, 1956 Final Edition Editorial JAMES E. MILLS - Editor.

RACON.

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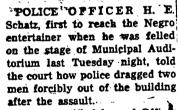
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Four go on trial, attack details told

The slow-moving trial of four men accused in an asdult on Negro Singer Nat (King) Cole resumes in Retrider's Court Monday morning.

Only one witness testified after the proceeding got oder way Friday in Judge Ralph Parker's court. Fifteen

were sworn in.



Schatz testified he and Officer A. A. Norman knocked the two men into the orchestra pit when one tried to drag Cole off the stage.

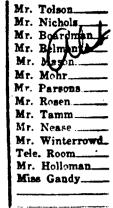
Schatz's testimony mainly concerned two men not yet on trial. The four being tried are accused of a variety of misdemeanors in connection with the assault.

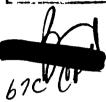
JUDGE PARKER ordered the trial to begin over vigorous defense objections. He overruled motions by Defense Atty. Rodrick Beddow for a two-work continuance and separate trials for the four defendants.

Beddow contended the were "dissasociated from each other."

Police investigators have charged that the assault was a conspiracy in which 150 men were to take part.

Another delay of more than an hour came when Judge Parker ordered the prosecution to prepare separate warrants in each ise. He pointed out that the defendants could be found guilt of only one charge contained in a warrant.





THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS Birmingham, Alabama April 14, 1956 (Front Page)

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FICER H. E. SCHATZ

three of the defendants was appropriate to the defendants was appropriate to the proceedings.

LLL SIX MEN, the four new on all and the two facing preliminary mearing on felony cunts, we members of the North Alabama Citizens Council, a strongly pro-segregation organization.

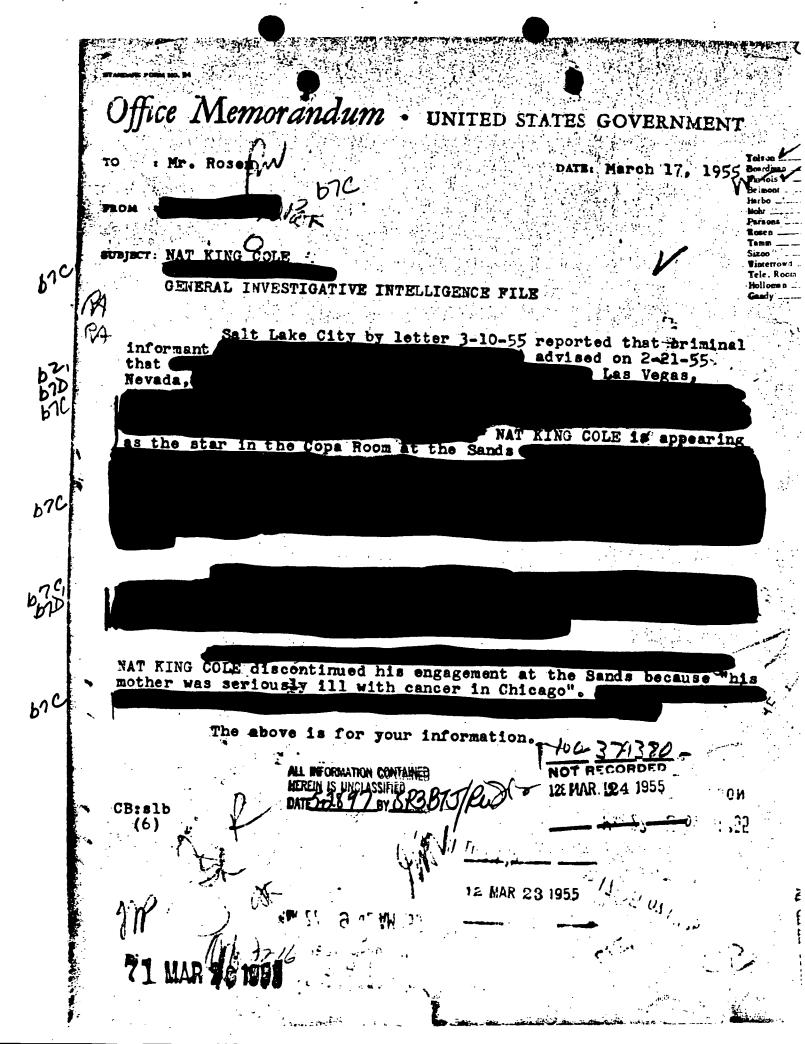
The defendants and the charges The defendants and the charges against them now are: Mike Fox, 36, conspiracy to commit a breach of the peace and conspiracy to commit assault and oattery (one warrant). Edgar Leo Vinson, 25, disorder y conduct and conspiracy to com-nit assault and battery. Orliss Wade Clevenger, 18, discommit assault and battery.

"Jesse W. Mabry, 43, disorderly enduct, refusal to obey the law-tu command of an officer and conspiracy to commit a breach of the peace. orderly conduct; carrying a conpeace. Il but Mabry are from Anni ton. Mabry, who lives at 960 West-hlvd, Roebuck, is associate editor of The Southerner, a publication of the North Alabama Citizens Council. OFFICER SCHATZ said he was at the east end of the Auditorium stage about 8:50 p.m. Tuesday night when he saw Willie Robert Vinson, 23, and Kenneth Adams, 35, running down the east aisle.

W. R. Vinson and Adams, also of Anniston, face preliminary hearing April 20 on charges of asof Anniston, face preliminary hearing April 20 on charges of assault with intent to murder. Adams is an official of the Anniston White Citizens Council.

Schatz testified W. R. Vinson if ed on stage and grabbed Cole in his legs, dragging him down, A ams dived over Vinson's shoulders, the witness said. A ams dived over Vinson's shoulders, the witness said.
I went over and knocked Vinson from his hold. About that time Officer A. A. Norm in grabbed Adams. Adams jerked lke he was going to run and I knocked him off the stage. Norman went with him. We arrested finson and Adams," Schatz said. SCHATZ SAID he saw Mabry, no followed the officers ut, king, "why we had the white sys ander arrest when we outht to be in the Auditorium bearing the Negro." the Negro."

Une charge against each of



STANDARD FORM NO. 64

GIR 2

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Nichols DATE: February 25, 1957 NATHANIEL ADAM COLE, also known as NAT KING COLE MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING Winterrowd Tele, Roon Holloman . Gandy . PURPOSE: To set forth pertinent information in Bufiles re Nat King Cole in accordance with your request. DETAILS: No investigation has been conducted by the Bureau concerning Cole, however, files reflect the following salient information. A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1945 that Nat King Cole were then members of the Communist Political Association in Hollywood. (100-356137-589, page 10) A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in August, 1949, that "King" Cole was a member of the music division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (Hollywood Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council). (100-356137-589, page 12) The National Council of Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited as a communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities. A Salt Lake City criminal informant advised Bureau Agents on February 21, 1955, that Las Vegas, Nevada, informed him, the informant, that Nat King Cole was appearing at the hotel in the Copa Room as the star. PEDORDED - 36 FJH:jh INDEXED - 96

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to Nichols memorandum

February 25, 1957

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Nat King Cole discontinued his engagement at the Sands for personal reasons.

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(62-75147-44-591)

It will be recalled that in April, 1956, while appearing in Birmingham, Alabama, Cole was attacked by a group of men, reportedly members of the North Alabama Citizens Council. The attack took place in Municipal Auditorium and the assailants were prosecuted in local court and sentenced to one hundred eighty days in jail. (100-379380)

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.





In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNATED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

301 Continental Bank Building Salt Lake City 1, Utah October 8, 1957

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. Department of Justice Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL

670

Dear Mr. Hoover:

while in Las Vegas, Nevada, last week, I had lunch with the said his most pressing problem at the moment is Nat King-Cole, who is presently the featured attraction at the Sands Hotel.

By way of background, traditionally the "Strip" hotels have been strictly segregated so far as colored persons are concerned. Recently, however, top flight colored entertainers have been allowed to stay at the hotel where they were performing. These performers include Cole, Bailey.

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the problem for is complaints have been received concerning Cole's actions. One officen insists the Sands Hotel be closed for permitting such

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activity. This individual personally called at all "Strip" hotels to inquire whether they would accept colored guests. The Sands, Flamingo and Riviera Hotels all stated they would register any presentable person, regardless of color. All other hotels said they would refuse to register colored persons. Said he would keep me advised of developments in this matter.

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In Reno the newest hotel is the Holiday. It is an extremely modern building and was built by the Dollar Steamship family. The Hotel had slot machines but was losing money until recently purchased by a syndicate headed by

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is a close personal friend of Bing Crosby.

was placed in the Hotel. To stimulate business they have instituted a contest called "In 80 Days, Around the World." Each jackpot winner receives a chance on a nightly drawing, and the winner of each nightly drawing is entitled to a chance during the final drawing. Needless to say, the grand prize is a first class trip for two around the world. To feature this contest, a large replica of the balloon used in the motion picture of a similar name has been placed in front of the Hotel.

I have insisted to the Agents at both Las Vegas and Reno that materially increased informant coverage is necessary, and you can be sure I will personally follow this important matter.

Respectfully,

W. MARK FELT

Special Agent in Charge

EX 109 REC- 27

Director, FBI (100-379350) - 7

ON

May 25, 1959

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE SECURITY MATTER - C

Reurlet 5-11-59 and Washington Field Office letter 4-27-59.

For your information the subject is also known as Nat King Cole, the Negro entertainer.

Cole has never been the subject of investigation by the Bureau and no action is desired of your office or Washington Field Office in this matter.

1 - Washington Field (100-35968)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Washington Field Office letter shows Cole was issued passport 3-11-59 and information concerning this passport was referred to WFO by passport office as information in State Department files indicated Bureau has or has had interest in Cole. WFO has not reviewed Cole's file and advised Los Angeles it would not do so unless specifically requested by Los Angeles. advised it has no information identifiable with Nathaniel Adams Cole and requested Bureau to search his name and advise Los Angeles or other interested offices if further action is desired. Cole was possible member of Communist Party 1945 and in 1949 was member of the Music Division of Southern California Chapter of Arts, Sciences and Professions Council. Bureau has no interest in this case; however, blind memorandum concerning above information was furnished State Department by Name Check Section in 2-55.

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MAILED 2 MAY 25 1959 COMM-FBI ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memi andum ounited st. ies government

ro : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5/11/59

ROM

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-0)

A SUBJECT

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE

SM-C

There is enclosed herewith for the Bureau's information a copy of a letter from WFO to Los Angeles dated 4/27/59 regarding the passport application of captioned subject. It is noted that according to the Passport Office of the State Department, the Bureau has, or has had, an interest in COLE. It is also noted that COLE allegedly resides at 401 South Muirfield Road, Los Angeles.

Los Angeles indices do not reflect information that can be identified with NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE. The current telephone directory does not list the name, although it possibly could be a non-published telephone number.

The Bureau is requested to search the name through its indices for any previous information or interest the Bureau may have had in the subject. If further attention is desired in this matter, Los Angeles or other interested offices should be advised and WFO should review the passport file on subject.

UACB, Los Angeles is conducting no investigation at this time.

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2 - Bureau (Encl. 1)

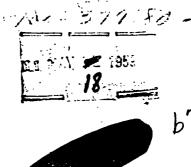
1 - WFO (100-35968)(Info)

1 - Los Angeles

MMB:SCM

(4) Let to LA 5-25-59 wnp/ulg REC. 53

4-113



SAC, LOS ANGELES

SAC. WFO (100-35968)

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE, aka SM - C (00:LA)

The information concerning COLE's passport was referred to WFO by the Legal Division, Passport Office, Department of State, because of information in the State Department files indicating that the Bureau has, or has had, an interest in COLE. The information in this letter is the information furnished by the State Department. WFO has not reviewed the file and will not unless you specifically request it. The accuracy of the information has not been verified by WFO personnel. The file usually contains a picture which will be copied if you desire and request it.

The Legal Division, Passport Office, advised that COLE was issued Passport #1327739 on 3/11/59, at Los Angeles. On the application for this passport he stated he was born 3/17/19, at Montgomery, Alabama.) His current address is 401 South Muirfield Road, Los Angeles, Calif. On his passport application, filed 3/6/59, COLE denied present and past CP membership.

COLE intended to depart from New York on 3/27/59, by Pan American Airways for 7 to 8 weeks in Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Columbia and Mexico for the purpose of entertainment - theatrical. RUC.

2-Los Angeles (RM)

CEG:bsb



BEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED MAY 1 1959
FEI-LOS ANGELES

ENCLOSUREM

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DIRECTOR, FBI

SAC, WFO (100-35968)

SUBJECT:

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE, aka

Nat King Cole

SM - C (OO:LA)

Remylet, 4/27/59, and LAlet 5/11/59.

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COLE's passport file was reviewed by at the Passport Office, Department of State, on 5/20/59, and the following information was obtained therefrom.

CURRENT PASSPORT

COLE was issued passport #1327734 on 3/11/59, based upon an application dated 3/6/59, at Las Vegas, Nevada. This passport was for travel to Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico and Colombia, for a period of sevent to eight weeks. The purpose of the trip is a theatrical entertainment trip. In his application, COLE denied present or past Communist Party membership.

PREVIOUS PASSPORTS

COLE was issued passport #342195 on 8/25/50 to depart from New York about 9/1/50, for a six-week concert tour to England. This passport was renewed to be valid until 8/24/54. He indicated he intended to depart from New York, 3/19/54, for a six-week business trip as a performer to England, France, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy and Norway. On 12/30/54, COLE was issued passport #33112 (San Francisco series) for a three-week entertaining trip to Australia, to depart Los Angeles about ALL live on 12/31/54.

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Name:

Also known as: Date of birth: NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE NAT KING COLE

3/17/19

REC- 23

12 MAY 28 1959

L Bureau 2 - Los Angeles (RM) 1 - WFO

TCR:lss

WFO 100-35968

Place of birth:

Montgomery, Alabama

Height: Hair: 6' 1" Black Brown

Eyes: Occupation:

Spouse:

Entertainer

ng ay marka

Address:

401 S. Muirfield Road, Los

Angeles, California

Father:

Mother:

PERLINA COLE (deceased)

SECURITY INFORMATION

The passport file contains no derogatory security information except a Bureau memorandum furnished to the State Department in answer to a name check request which reads, in part, as follows:

"A confidential informant of known reliability advised in 1945 that NAT COLE, who may be identical with the subject of your inquiry.

members of the Communist Political Association in Hollywood at that time.

"A confidential informant of known reliability advised in August, 1949, that 'KING' COLE was a member of the Music Division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (Hollywood Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council)"

It is noted that in his passport application, COLE states his wife and he did not marry her until WFO is not aware if COLE had a former wife 61C

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It would appear that the presence of the Bureau memorandum in the passport file led the Passport Office to believe the Bureau had an interest in COLE. RUC.

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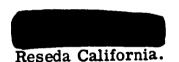
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11-27-60.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

For many years now my father has been telling me that "Nat King Cole," is a Communist and that he is no good and a discrace to his country. Mr. Hoover I love the singing of Cole and want to get this cleared up once and for all. Please send me a letter telling me weather or not "Nat King Cole," is a Communist. I hope you can do this little request for me I know that the f.b.i. is just for the use of big men with lots of money but this is America and anybody can inquire and receive the services of your work. Thank you very much again

Yours Truily



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P.S. Sir if I could, would you send me you autograph, I have a Collection of them and would sure like to have your's thanks again.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS LINCLASSIFIED
DATE 5 5 7 By 9367 7

December 6. B1C bac Dear Your letter dated November 27, 1960, has been received. Although I would like very much to answer your inquiry, the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any individual. Iregret that I cannot help you and hope you will not infer in this connection either that we do or do not have the specific information you desire. In response to your request, I am glad to send you this letter bearing my signature. Sincerely yours J. Edgar Hoover NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Nat "King" Cole, the colored singer, members of the Communist Political Association in Hollywood at that time according to a confidential informant of Bureau of known reliability. As of August, 1949, Cole was a member of the Music Division of the Southern Rin California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (The Tolson National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited by Parsons the HCUA). When applying for a passport for a theatrical Callahan DeLoach entertainment trip through South America: on 3-11-59, in his application, Malone .

Cole denied present or past Communist Party membership (62-60527-42205

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

McGuire

and 100-379380).

TELETYPE UNIT L

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

· UNITED STATES GOVER

lemorandum

Mr. DeLoach

FROM

SUBJECT: NAT "KING"

DATE: January 18, 1961

ele. Room

Dung

PURPOSE:

Mr. Tolson requested a file check on Nat "King" Cole the singer. It is pointed out that we have a main file on Cole as well as approximately 100 See references. In the interest of expediency review has been limited to a review of Cole's main file and recent See references.

BACKGROUND DATA:

Nat "King" Cole was born Nathaniel Adams Coles on March 17, 1919 in Montgomery, Alabama. He began his career as a pianist and in 1939 formed a trio and while playing the piano in a California club started to sing and is now better known as a singer of popular jazz music. He has capitalized on his voice and now earns approximately \$400,000 a year from records. Cole was the first Negro to host his own TV show starting in 1957. In 1937 Cole but this marriage ended in divorce. In 1948 he wed married He has two daughters and is singer (active in the fight for equal rights for Negroes. Cole is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He resides in Hollywood, California. (Celebrity Register)

61C

INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES:

No investigation has been conducted by the Bureau concerning Cole, however, files reflect the following salient information.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1945 that Nat "King" Cole were then members of the Communist

Political Association in Hollywood.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in August, 1949, that "King" Cole was appember of the music division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Screeces, and Profession Council (Hollywood Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council) 16 57 57 5 1 1 INFORMATION CONTAINED

to DeLoach

Re: NAT ''KING'' COLE

The National Council of Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been. cited as a communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities.

A Salt Lake City criminal informant advised Bureau Agents on February 21, 1955, that

Nevada, informed him, the informant, that

at the hotel in the Copa Room as the star,

Nat King Cole was appearing

Nat King

Cole discontinued his engagement at the Sands for personal reasons.

It will be recalled that in April, 1956, while appearing in Birmingham, Alabama, Cole was attacked by a group of men, reportedly members of the North Alabama Citizens Council. The attack took place in Municipal Auditorium and the assailants were prosecuted in local court and sentenced to one hundred eighty days in jail.

By personal letter to the Director dated October 8, 1957, SAC Salt Lake City advised as follows.

Nat King Cole is presently performing at the Sands

there were many complaints received from citizens and suggestions that The Sands be closed. (100-379380)

The "New York Herald Tribune" of May 4, 1960, contained a story concerning the "Committee to Defend Martin Luther King." The committee was described as a group formed to raise money to help Dr. King fight an income tax evasion indictment in the state of Alabama. A pretext telephone call by Agents of b7C

to DeLoach

Re: NAT "KING" COLE

the New York Office ascertained that this committee was at 372 West 125 Street and that Nat King Cole was the treasurer. (100-40377-326)

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

GRU

W.

JAN S.II

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UNITED STATES GO ERNMENT emorandum



DIRECTOR, FBI (100-379380)

DATE: MAY 8, 1961

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-29226)

SUBJECT:

CHANGED

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE, aka

Nat King Cole

SM - C

00: Los Angeles

The title is marked CHANGED to record the correct name of NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE for the subject according to passport records.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight (8) copies of a letterhead memorandum regarding NAT KING COLE, the well-known colored musician and band leader.

Enclosed for Washington Field Office is one (1) copy of the above letterhead memorandum.

Sources referred to in the memorandum are as follows:

Paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 are based on data from the passport record of the State Department made available by Washington Field Office's memo of May 27, 1959, and FBI Liaison with State on March 30, 1961.

Paragraph 6 concerning COLE'S reported membership in the Communist Party (CP) and Communist Political Association (CPA) in Los Angeles in 1944 - 1945, was furnished in 1945 by 62, 67D 62.670

Source referred to in paragraph 7 was former

CP functionary at Los Angeles.

EX-139

MAY 15 1961

time

REC-88 - Bureau (Encl. 8) (REGISTERED)
- Washington Field Office (Encl. 1) (100-35968)

(Info) (REGISTERED)

1 - Los Angeles MMB:kfw

50MAY 23

(4)

LA 100-29226

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Negative sources referred to in paragraph 8

MID

Reference is made to Bureau letter to Los Angeles and Washington Field Office dated May 25, 1959, noting that COLE has never been the subject of a Bureau investigation, and that no action was desired by the Bureau at that time.

This matter is in closed status at Los Angeles.



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF . JSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California May 8, 1961



NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE is the well-known musician and band leader who is better known under his professional name of NAT KING COLE. Information, which appears in COLE'S passport file at the Passport Office, Department of State, as on May 20, 1959, reveals the following:

He was issued Passport Number 342195 on August 25, 1950, to depart from New York about September 1, 1950, for a six week's concert tour to England. This passport was renewed to be valid until August 24, 1954. He indicated he intended to depart from New York, March 19, 1954, for a six week's business trip as a performer to England, France, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy, and Norway. On December 30, 1954, EOLE was issued Passport Number 33112 (San Francisco series) for a three week's entertaining tour to Australia, leaving Los Angeles about December 31, 1954.

On March 11, 1959, COLE was issued Passport Number 1327734 based on an application dated March 6, 1959, at Las Vegas, Nevada, for travel to various South American countries for seven to eight weeks on a theatrical and entertainment tour. In his application, COLE denied present or past Communist Party membership.

This last passport was renewed March 2, 1961 at Los Angeles, California, the application indicated COLE

DECLAS BY (P3 BTJ/RW)
ON 5-30-9

CONFIDENTIAL

100-

ENCLOSURE

120. REC'D 4/12/62
MAY = 1962
ANS: Yms gw



expected to leave Los Angeles by Pan American Airways,
May 5, 1961, for a trip of three to four weeks to Japan,
Phillipines, and Hong Kong for business and pleasure. His
address is given as 401 Muirfield Road, Los Angeles, his
date and place of birth as March 17, 1919, at Montgomery.
Alabama,

In 1945, a confidential source furnished information to the effect that NAT COLE

were affiliated with the Communist Party (CP) or Communist Political Association (CPA) at Los Angeles during the period 1944 - 1945, probably attached to one of the CP's so-called cultural groups in Hollywood. However, it was also indicated that COLE was on tour a considerable part of the time; and no particular CP activity on his part was known to informant.

In 1951, another source, now deceased, who was once personally acquainted with COLE, recalled that sometime during the early 1940s, NAT KING COLE was brought around to see the source by a motion picture actor who was known to the source as an old time CP member. The purpose of the visit was to arrange for COLE to receive instruction in Marxism. The arrangement was not carried through, however, for the reason that it was decided that the source who was to be the instructor was colored, and NAT KING COLE, although himself colored, was at the time associating almost exclusively with white "progressives".

Confidential sources who are currently connected with the Professional-Cultural Section of the CP and who have some information regarding their membership and activities, advise they have no information that NAT KING COLE is affiliated with the CP organization at Los Angeles, nor have they heard him referred to in any CP meeting as though he might be a member or even sympathetic to the Party.

A physical description of COLE as noted from the passport record of the State Department is as follows:

Name Also known as Date of birth Place of birth NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE Nat King Cole March 17, 1919 Montgomery, Alabama



りつか



Height Hair Eyes Occupation Spouse

6 feet 1 inch Black

Brown

Entertainer.

670

Address

Father

Los Angeles, California EDWARD JAMES COLE

1412 Greenfield Avenue

Mother P

Chicago, Illinois PERLINA COLE (deceased)

The above information was received from confidential sources who have furnished reliable information in the past.

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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	Section 552			Section 552a
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			(b)(7)(D)	□ (k)(2)
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